

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Spread Spectrum Devices, Second Report and Order, ET Docket No. 99-231

I am pleased to join in approving this item, which amends our Part 15 rules to enable the introduction of new technologies and allow for more flexibility in design for systems operating in the unlicensed bands. Among other things, this item allows new digital transmission technologies to operate under the current rules for spread spectrum systems and provides new flexibility for frequency hopping spread spectrum systems in the 2.4 GHz band. These actions will further promote the already impressive development of devices and services in the unlicensed bands.

Increased spectral efficiency – particularly through spectrum sharing – is becoming more and more important as we face ever increasing demands for spectrum. I have thus encouraged the Commission to move toward policies that enable and encourage sharing. Our Part 15 rules have been a huge success in that regard, allowing applications such as Bluetooth and 802.11 to flourish by sharing spectrum.

Today's item continues this trend and enables new and better means of spectrum sharing in the unlicensed bands. For example, the item permits the use of as few as fifteen hopping channels for frequency hopping spread spectrum systems, allowing these systems to better avoid occupied channels and thereby evade interference. I am optimistic that this change and the other modifications we make in this item will encourage even greater sharing and result in a more diverse set of products to operate in the unlicensed bands.